



# CARBONERS ROUTE

Sant  
Hilari  
Sacalm



# Sant Hilari Sacalm

**LesGuilleriesKm0.cat**

**Sant Hilari Sacalm** is the **capital of Les Guilleries**, the km 0 of a wild and -still- little-known massif near the Montseny, a mountain range. A place where nature, forests and water generously give us innumerable emotions and experiences to enjoy the privileged environment which surrounds us.

Les Guilleries is the ideal place for all nature lovers searching for authentic havens where you can connect with yourself and awaken all your senses. A place where you can live all kinds of experiences, such as enjoying cool moments drinking the natural water that comes from more than **100 municipal springs**. You can also have a bath in the transparent waters of some **streams or pools** hidden by the environment, or simply sit and close your eyes to listen to the force of the water falling from a waterfall while letting go your thoughts for a few moments.

For those who want to feel the adrenaline, you can **practice different high-intensity sports** such as hiking along long paths, mountain biking and trail running, among others. However, for those who want to enjoy a calmer experience, there are several routes to go for a walk along pleasant paths which allow you to **find out the most authentic and pure nature** of Sant Hilari Sacalm.

Otherwise, if you are searching for silence, you just need to relax in some of the town's viewpoints and enjoy the panoramic views that its landscapes give us, while listening to the birds singing and the rustling of the leaves moved by the wind.

So, Sant Hilari is a **privileged place** where nature lovers can **enjoy and feel it in a thousand different ways**.



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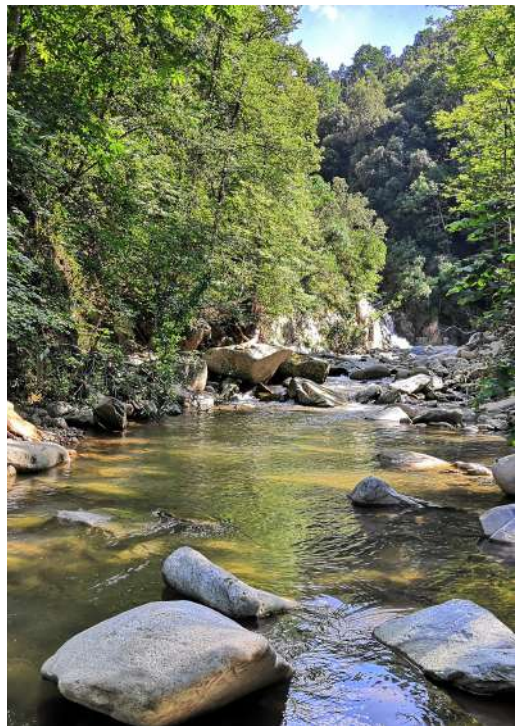
Illes forest

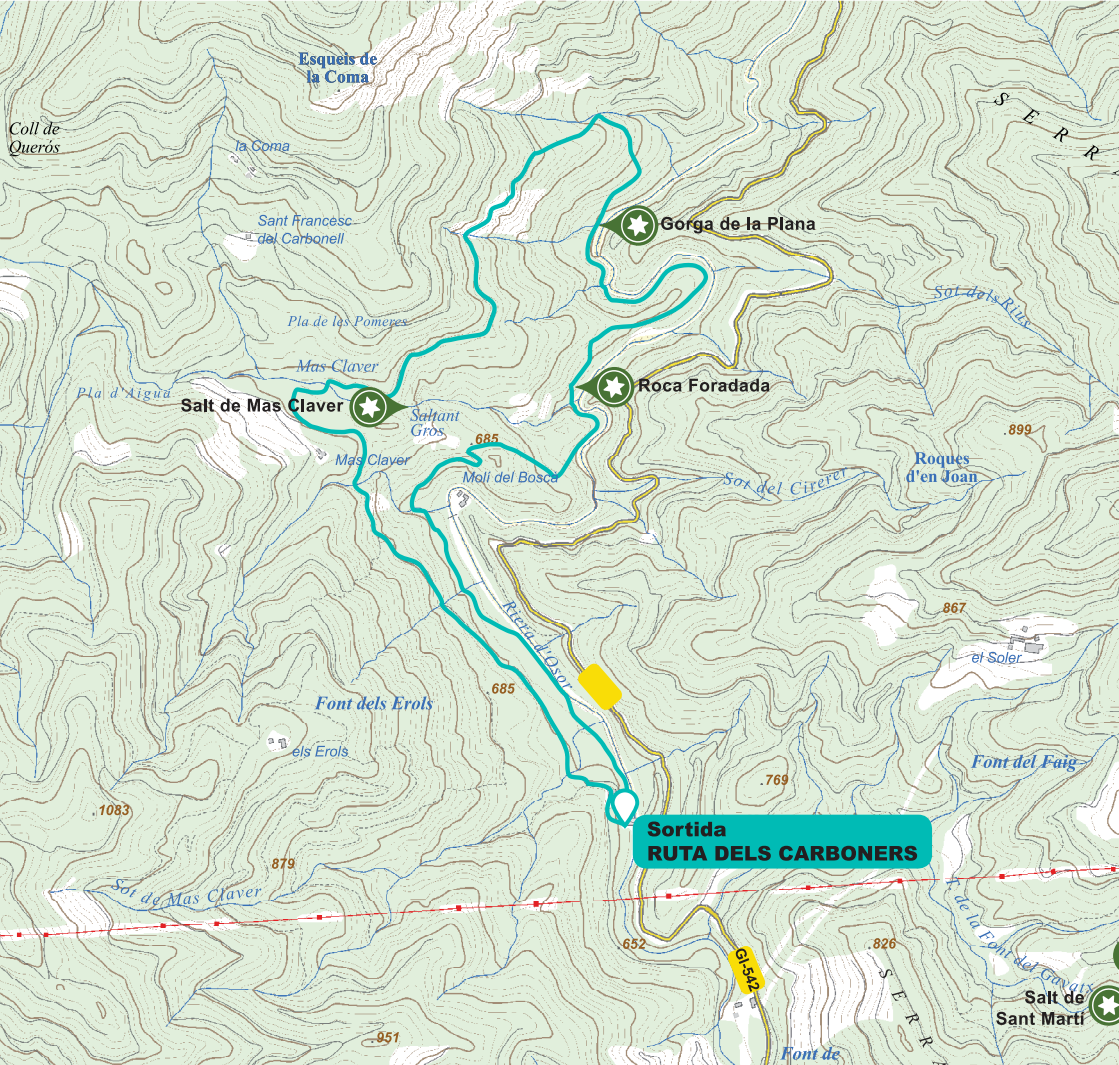
## General information

This route consists of a circular route made up of parts of **different levels of difficulty**. Most of the route takes advantage of easily accessible forest paths and forest tracks, but there are also parts which is a bit more complex, and even some are considered difficult. Added to the circular route, there are **different extensions** along it that add value to the route. These allow access to special points of the natural and cultural heritage in the area.

The itinerary can be started at different points along the route, it can be divided and done by sections, and it can even be linked to other themed routes in the area, such as the Ruta de la Font de la Formiga or Ruta d'en Serrallonga.

Camí dels Carboners allows you to discover the **Riera d'Osor valley**, between the boundaries of Sant Hilari Sacalm and Osor, municipalities with traditions linked to their natural environment, widely represented through this route. The itinerary is located within the protection area of **Xarxa Natura 2000** and **Zona PEIN**. This connection between manifestations of such diverse heritage, both natural and cultural, make this area an excellent area to enjoy hiking trails.





## Symbols and markers

 8,45 KM

 379 M

  3 H

## Route markers

All the route is marked with the following marks at trees and rocks:



Use wikiloc and see the route and all the information at the following link:  
<https://www.wikiloc.com/hiking-trails/ruta-dels-carboners-53602128>

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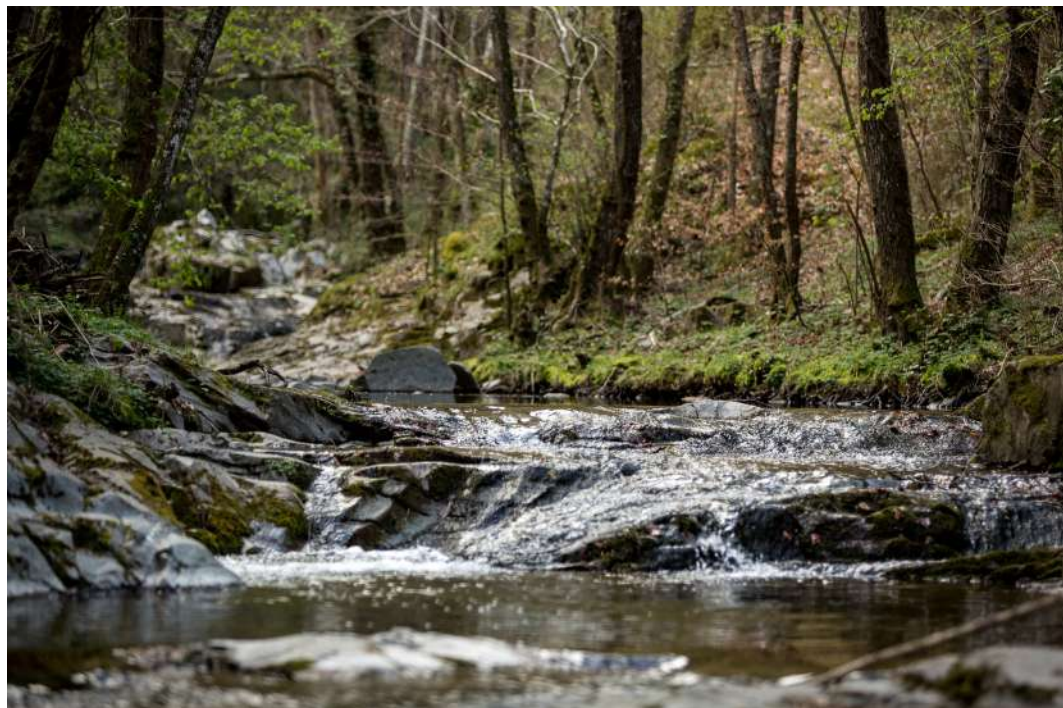
## Riera d'Osor

The municipality of Sant Hilari has a **granite composition**, which allows the conservation and retention of abundant water in its subsoil, boosting a series of small streams, which release water throughout the year. One of the most powerful river courses in Sant Hilari Sacalm and Les Guilleries is **Riera d'Osor**.

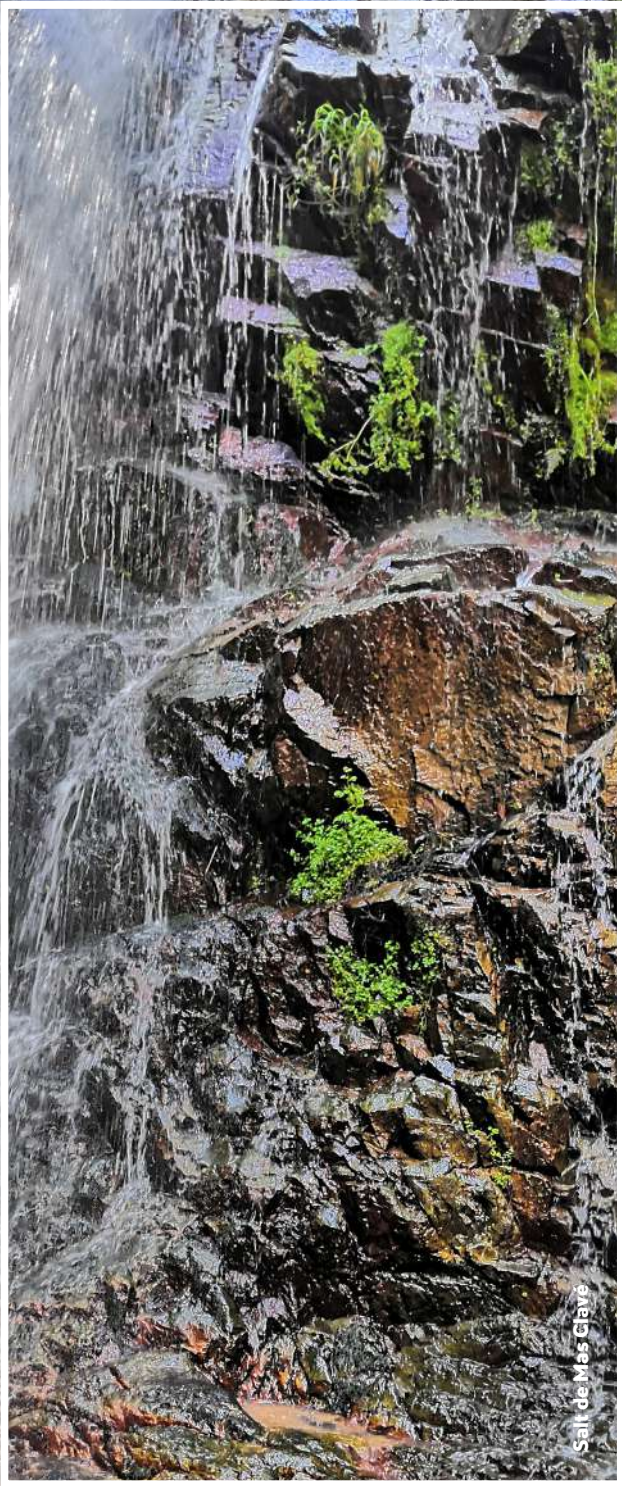
It rises in **Pla de les Arenes**, at an altitude of about 1,060 meters, between the boundaries of Espinelves and Sant Hilari Sacalm.

Along its route, it crosses **Sant Hilari**, where it takes advantage of new water inflows from the tributaries of Can Manel Mort, El Soler and Mas Clavé, **Osor** and ends up joining river **Ter** within the boundaries of **Anglès**.

The stream is **considered a natural and biological connector**, as well as an Area of Strategic Interest for Connectivity, both regionally and locally since it generates ecological and landscape connections between biologically interesting and potential points such as Parc Natural de la Zona Volcànica de la Garrotxa (a natural park area covering a volcanic field) in the north and Parc Natural del Montseny in the south.







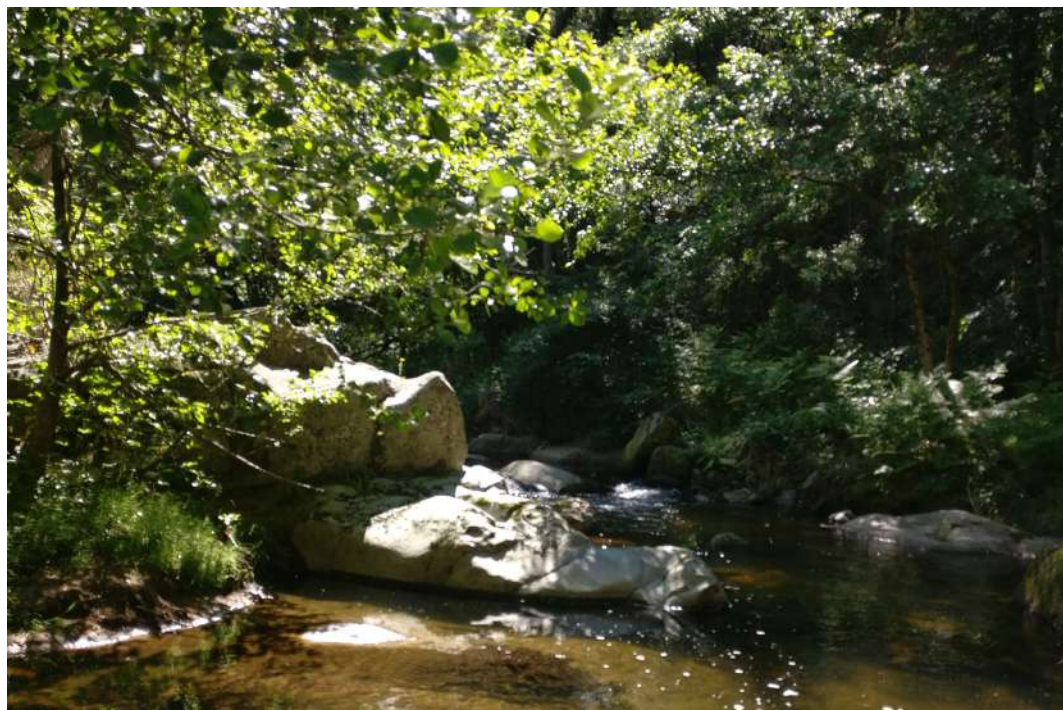
Sault de Mes Clayé

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## Flora

The main forests that predominate along the route are **riparian forests**. Specifically, the route includes two different categories: the **predominant is the forest formed by European black alders** (*Alnus glutinosa*), where there is also black poplar (*Populus nigra*) and common nettle (*Lamium flexuosum*) from the rainy lowland; the **secondary** is that consisting of ash trees (*Fraxinus*) from the Pyrenees and the northern Catalan mountains. *Fraxinus Excelsior* communities with *Alnus Glutinosa* are considered **high priority community interest habitats** by European regulations.

The rest of the forest mass we can find along the route has a **wide variety of habitats** thanks to the morphological characteristics of the area and the human activity that has traditionally been developed. The most abundant are the **mountain holm oaks** (*Quercetum mediterraneo-montanum*) with pines (*Pinus*), horse chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) in half and lowland, sessile oak groves (*Quercus petraea*) and Pyrenean acidophilous beech forests. Additionally, there are also **habitats more closely related to human activity**, such as conifer plantations

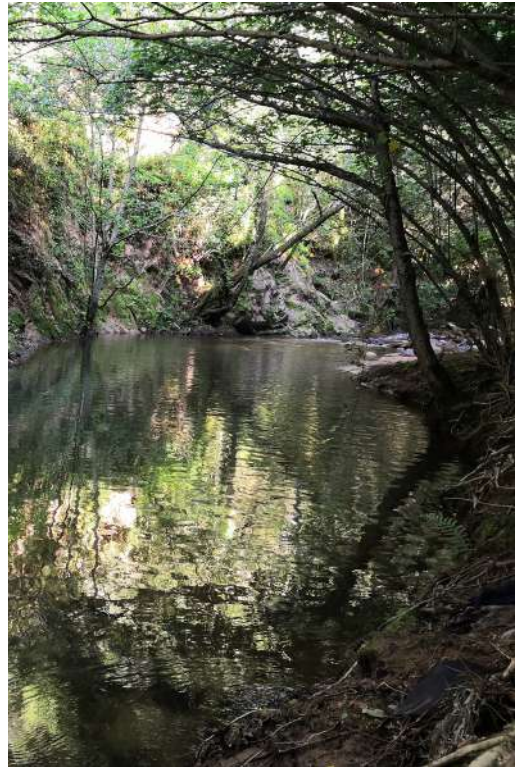


## Flora

(*Pinophyta* or *Coniferae*), fenugreek (*Brachipodietum phoenicoidis*) and tall oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*).

As for bushes, we highlight the **abundance of boxwoods** (*Buxus sempervirens*) in areas close to the riverbed. Unfortunately, the populations of this shrub are **severely affected** and deteriorated by the **proliferation of the box tree moth** (*Cydalima perspectalis*). Along the route, you can also find different species of **orchids** (*Orchidaceae*), some of which are **protected** by their vulnerability, and other species such as the **Pyrenean-violet** (*Ramonda myconi*), which is an **endemic species** of the North East of Spain really appreciated by its capacities in medicine. seves **capacitats en medicina**.

Within these habitats, we **highlight two species** for their relationship with some traditional forest exploitation activities: the **evergreen oak**, which had been used by **charcoal burners** for the production of charcoal, and the **sweet chestnut**, which "**roders**" used as raw material. Both activities are closely linked to Sant Hilari and Les Guilleries.



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## Fauna

The **fauna** in this area is **very diverse** since it is related to the presence of the different habitats aforementioned. Most of the species we can find are **relatively common in Catalonia**, but this does not playdown their **diversity**.

In the areas near a stream, we highlight the presence of some **species of fish** such as the European chub (*Leuciscus cephalus*) and the Mediterranean barbel (*Barbus meridionalis*). There are also **amphibians** such as the Mediterranean tree frog (*Hyla meridionalis*), the common midwife toad (*Alytes obstetricans*) and the marbled newt (*Triturus marmoratus*). All of them are of **special interest**.

As for **reptiles**, we can find the European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*), the Montpellier snake (*Malpolon monspessulanus*) and the ladder snake (*Elaphe scalaris*), lizards such as the Iberian wall lizard (*Podarcis hispanica*) and the common wall lizard (*Pardalis muralis*), among others.

It is also worth mentioning that this environment is **rich in the presence of birds**. Depending on the habitat, you can find the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and the Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), the grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), the common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), the lesser spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*), the tawny owl (*Strix aluco*), the common blackbird



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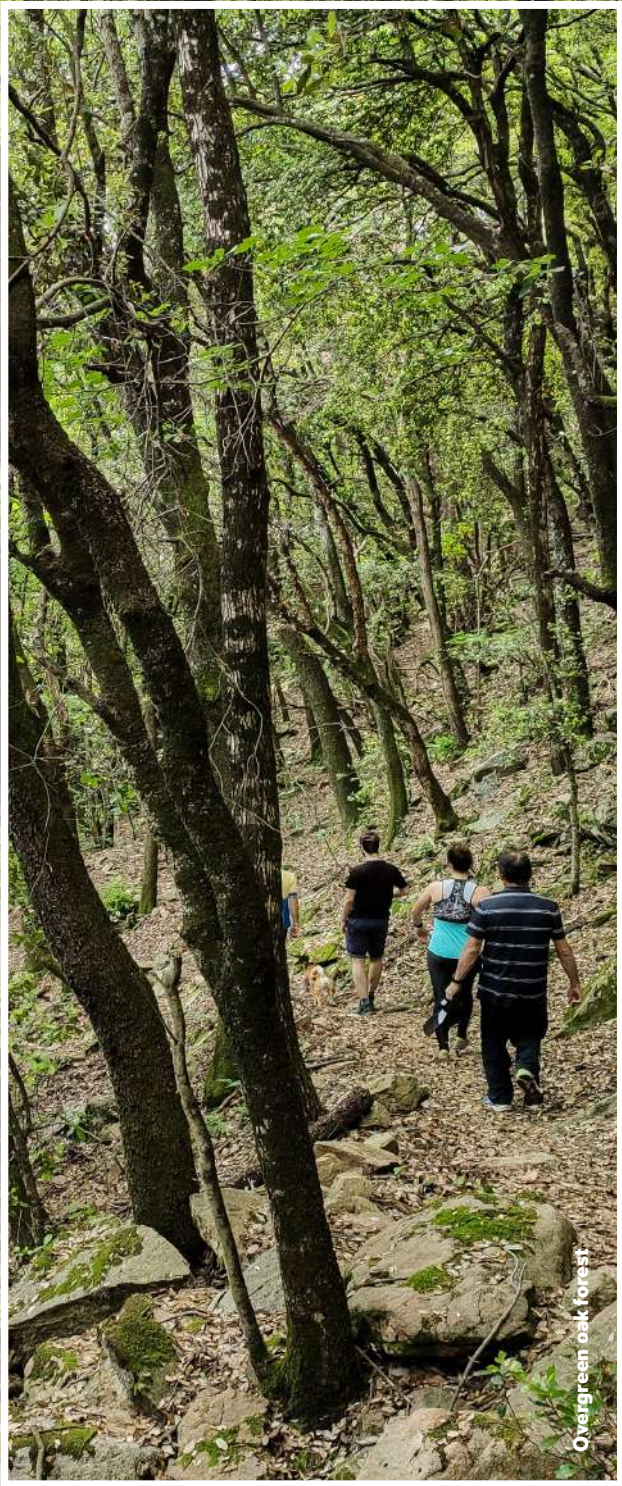
## Fauna

(*Turdus merula*), the blue rock thrush (*Monticola solitarius*), the Eurasian woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) and several tits (*Parus* spp.).

As for **mammal species**, we have to highlight that those living in this area are shared with other areas of Catalonia. These include the European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), the Mediterranean water shrew (*Neomys anomalus*) and different species of bats such as the greater horseshoe bat (*Rinolophus ferrum-equinum*). There are also populations of common genet (*Genetta genetta*), wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) and Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), among others.

It is also important to highlight two species of mammals which are very present in Les Guilleries in general: **the red fox** (*Vulpes vulpes*), the species that gives name to the area, since Guilleries means "**land of foxes** (guilles)", because they used to be plentiful in this area; and the **wild boar** (*Sus scroga*), a mammal that has recently reproduced so much in this area that we could even be talking about **overpopulation**. Nowadays, the dominant is of a hybrid breed from the mating of two specimens: pigs and semi-wild pigs.





Overgreen oak forest

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## Places of interest - Font Picant

The route has got several points and elements of **cultural interest**, representative of the different trades and traditions related to the natural heritage of Les Guilleries.

Before reaching the starting point of the route, there are two points of interest nearby, such as **Font Picant** and **Resclosa Ribot or Pantà de la Font Picant**.

### LA FONT PICANT

The **former Font Picant spa** is a building located 4km from Sant Hilari heading Osor. It was one of the most famous spas in Spain at the beginning of the **20th century**, as it was known for its **mineral-medicinal springs**.

In 1880, when its waters were declared of **public utility**, in order to increase the comfort of summer visitors who visited the place frequently, **a hotel** was built with 250 beds, a lounge-restaurant, a large dining room, a chapel, a party venue, a billiard room, theatre, mail service, tennis courts and large gardens where a lot of events were organized. Such was its fame that this place was one of the **first to have electricity** thanks to a water coil and a **telephone line**.

Over time, it became the **town's summer resort** and also a meeting place for the **Catalan**



## Places of interest - Resclosa Ribot

**bourgeoisie.** During the Civil War, it was used as a hospital and in 1939 it reopened as a spa, but with a clear decrease in visitors. After some time and the evolution of medicine, the hotel had to close its doors.

Nowadays, Font Picant is an essential tourist point of interest for any visitor to the area because it allows to know the history of Sant Hilari and try the **different springs** of mineral-medical water that were **prescribed** to those people with liver disease, cholelithiasis and also to cure stone, kidney and urinary tract disease.

### RESCLOSA RIBOT OR PANTÀ DE LA FONT PICANT

After the building of Font Picant, there is the **Ribot lock or the Font Picant reservoir**, which was built as a **dam** to accumulate water. The facilities in Illes d'Amunt was the point where the **turbines** that generated electricity were located. Initially, this facility only supplied electricity to Balneari de la Font Picant, a spa, but soon after it was launched, its **electricity generation** was expanded so that it could supply electricity to Sant Hilari.



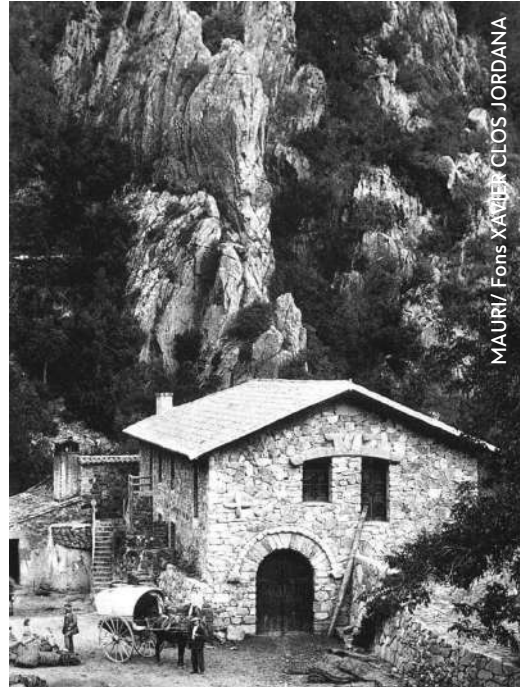


## Places of interest - El Molí d'en Boscà

### EL MOLÍ D'EN BOSCÀ

**Molí d'en Boscà** used to be a flour mill that took advantage of the power of the water in Riera d'Osor to run the millstones and **work the wheat to obtain flour**. The first documented reference dates from 1480.

Nowadays, we preserve the whole divided into two parts: the **industrial part**, where the mill was next to the stream, and **the house**, a little bit higher. The current remains have undergone modifications over the years, but the most important was in 1826, which can be verified thanks to the engraving on a stone lintel in the industrial part.



Esqueis de la Coma lookout.



## Places of interest - Carboners

All along the route, you can see **samples of cultural heritage** linked to the traditional trades in Les Guilleries. More specifically, in the most difficult part of the itinerary, we can identify items related to the trade of charcoal burners and "roders", two trades that disappeared because of the loss of their usefulness due to new technologies and the new resources that emerged throughout the **20th century**.

### CARBONERS

You can find the remains of an **old original hut**, and right next to it, you can still identify the **remains of a coal square**.

Charcoal burners used to cut down trees, collected firewood and throw it down to the charcoal square. There, they built a pile and then lit it to get started with the **cooking process** (slow combustion) in order to obtain charcoal.

They used to be built **near springs or streams** where they could take water, both to drink and to control the coal pit.

The **hut** used to be a **simple building** where four or six men lived for weeks or for as long as the **coal season lasted**. The huts used to be built with two wall-roofs of logs covered with



Fons: ÀNGEL SERRADESANFERM

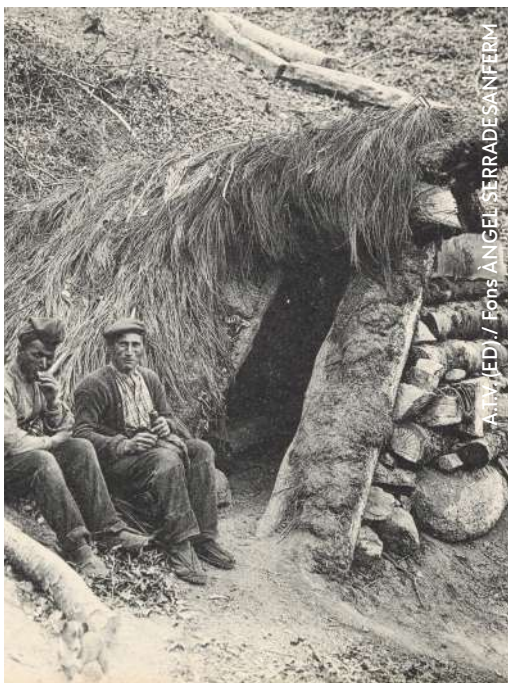


Foto: (ED) / Fons: ÀNGEL SERRADESANFERM

## Places of interest - Roders

branches with a layer of sand to waterproof the top, or they could also be more complex, built with crossbeams, dry stone walls, fireplace, compartments divided by a cloth, etc.

### RODERS

"**Roders**" used to work in groups. They cut **4-year-old chestnut trees** and worked them in the workplaces until they obtained the roll formed by a **set of shells**. The aim was to obtain a material which later could be used to make boxes for grapes or European pilchards (a kind of fish), ceramic containers and to cinch wine boots.

The work of "roders" was done mostly in the forest but, unlike charcoal burners, **they didn't need additional constructions** apart from workbenches. That is why there are currently no visible remains in the forest.

This industry lived its peak between 1890 and 1920. It should be highlighted that this kind of trade generated the **first trades unions to stand up for the trade and fight for fairer wages**.





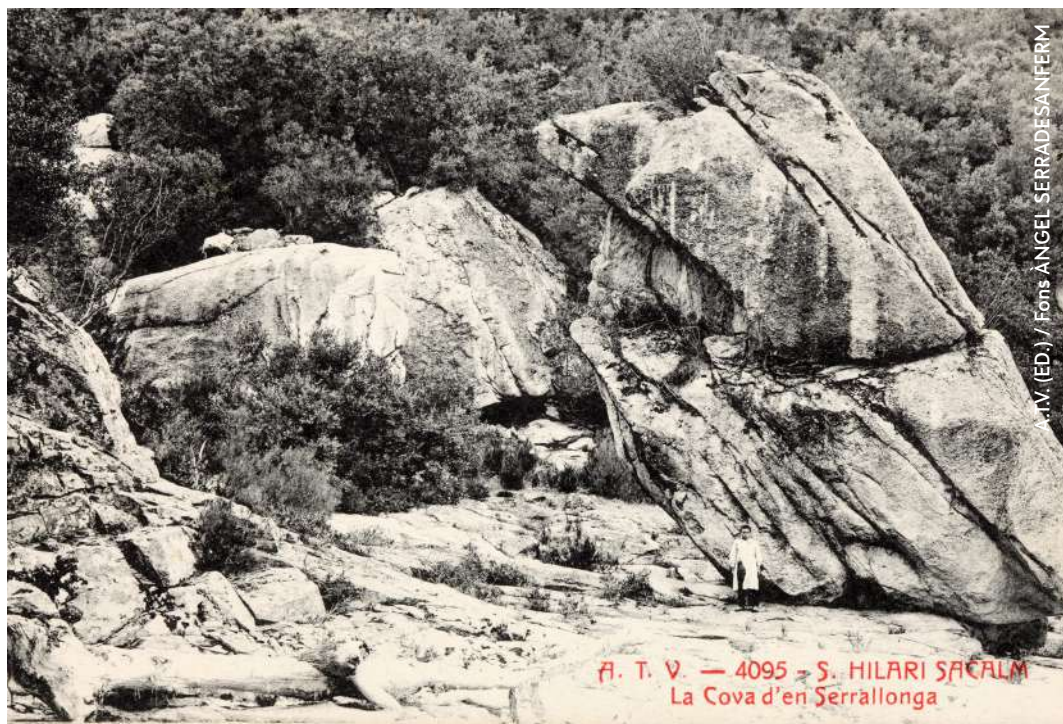
## Places of interest - La Roca Foradada

### LA ROCA FORADADA

**Roca Foradada** is a block of leucogranite about 8-10 meters tall and about 6 meters wide. It is located on the left side of **Riera d'Osor**, very near the **mouth of Riera de Mas Clavé**. It gets its name (in Catalan, Roca Foradada means "Holey Rock") from the hole left on the bottom of the rock.

This is how **Dr. Antoni Bartomeus** described it in the document of the conference "*Sant Hilari Sacalm at the beginning of the 20th century*", held at the Centre Excursionista de Catalunya in 1905:

"We contemplate a colossal, immense rock giant: Roca Foradada, which came off the top of the mountain attracted by the poetry of this place, and in order not to desecrate the purity of the remorseful waters, instead of lying down its bed, it is respectfully sitting on small pebbles happy to listen to its sighs and its melodies."



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## Places of interest - Cova d'en Serrallonga

### COVA D'EN SERRALLONGA

The cave hiding behind Roca Forada is known as **Cova d'en Serrallonga**. It is a block of leucogranite which, after having detached and being displaced from its original place, has left a wide enough space on its base and now it can be used as a shelter.

**Remains of bell-shaped pottery** have been found in this rock, site of the transition between the **third and second millennium BC**. As mentioned in the book *Sant Hilari Sacalm*, capital of Les Guilleries, by Àngel Serradesanferm and Antoni Pladevall: "Les Guilleries has always been land of little human occupation, since its physical and geographical characteristics have never made settlement easy. Few are the vestiges we can find there, a much less in the boundary of Sant Hilari."

This space could have been a **hiding place** for the well-known bandit Joan Sala, alias Serrallonga. **Joan Sala Ferrer**, son of Joan Sala and Joana Ferrer, was born in the farmhouse La Sala de Viladrau in 1594. When working as a farmer in Can Tarrés, he met Margarida Tallades Serrallonga, the inheritor of **Mas Serrallonga** de Querós (currently in the boundary of Sant Hilari). Joan Sala and Margarida got married in the church of Sant Martí de Querós. From then on, the bandit began to be known as **Serrallonga**.



## Punts d'interès - Salts d'aigua de Mas Clavé

When he began to fully devote his life to the gang of bandits he led, they broke into farmhouses, kidnapped people to get rewards, and committed some murders. Serrallonga became one of the **most well-known and feared bandits in Catalonia**.

On **31 October 1633**, he was captured by Lieutenant Ferran Paulí, near Santa Coloma de Farners, and was tortured and brutally executed in Barcelona a few weeks later.

### RIERA DE MAS CLAVÉ

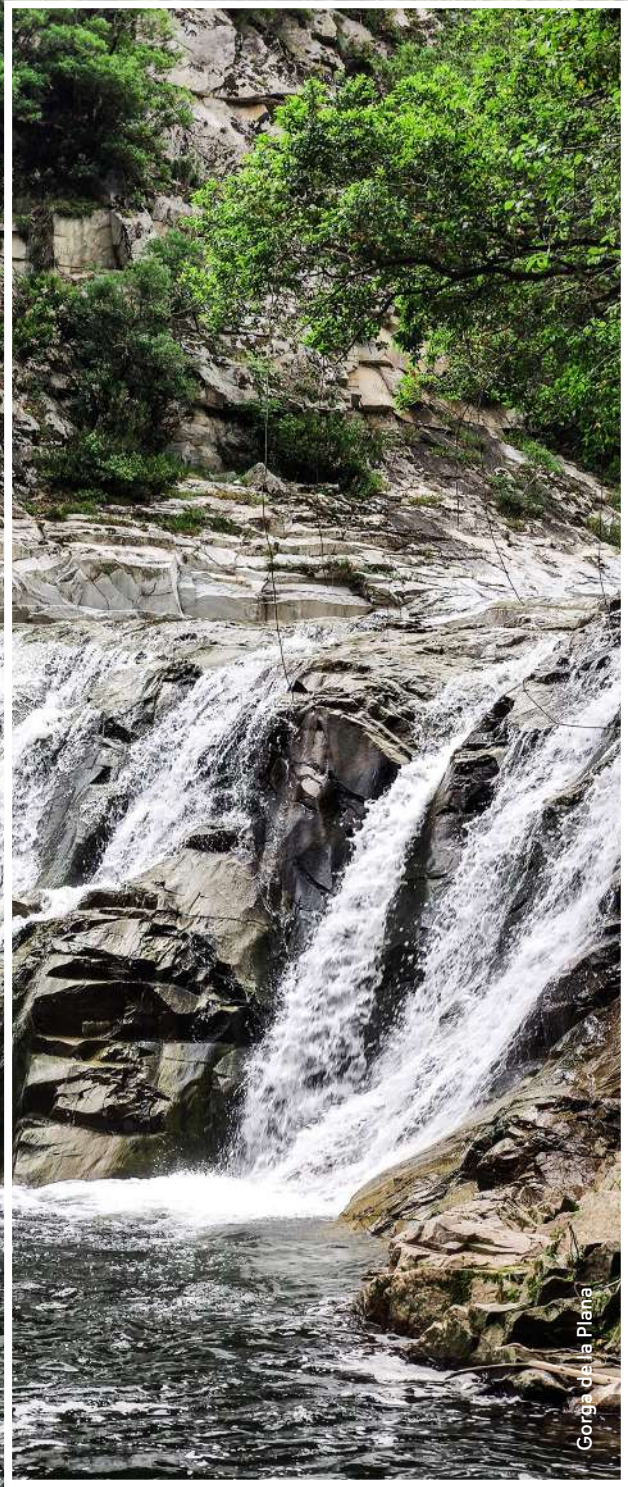
Just between Roca Foradada and Cova d'en Serrallonga, there is the mouth of **Mas Clavé stream**. It is characterized by having **six waterfalls**, one after the other, all of which have a drop of 145 meters.

### SALT DE MAS CLAVÉ

All along a path that goes up the route of **Mas Clavé stream** for about 100 meters upstream, you can reach the first waterfall, which is **15 meters high**. Also, following the different paths of the route, you reach a second waterfall that is approximately **20-25 meters high**, it is one of the highest of the Girona regions. At the base, the leucogranite stands out, on the other hand, on the wall of the waterfall we can see a more resistant rock, the porphyry.







Gorga de la Plana

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## Places of interest - Mirador dels Esqueis de la Coma

### MIRADOR DELS ESQUEIS DE LA COMA

Following the signs that the route marks in order to reach the lookout, you can access **two lookouts** with views to the **Esqueis de la Coma**.

They are located between the municipalities of Sant Hilari Sacalm and Osor.



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## Places of interest - Gorga de la Plana

### GORGA DE LA PLANA

**Gorga de la Plana** is located just at the end of the outward route of the signposted route. It is **quite wide** and it has got **two little waterfalls**.

This pool is delimited by a **stone wall** at the upper part of the course of the stream; at the lower part, there is a sandy area where you **have access to the pool**. It is deeper than the average of the course of Riera d'Osor whereas the water flows more slowly.

When you reach this pool, the **homeward route** starts. Nowadays, there are **two options**: you can **undo the route** or you can continue following the signs to the **circular route**, which leads to another of the waterfalls of **Mas Clavé**. It should be said that the latter option has a considerable **difference in grade**.





Riera de Mas Clavé

## Recommendations when going to the forest:



Plan your trip well before going into the woods.



Before setting off, keep the weather in mind.



Adapt your equipment (clothing, shoes...) to the activity.



It is advisable to bring some food, water and a mobile phone with the battery fully charged.



Calculate the time of the activity well. Count how long the trip will take, so that you won't have to leave when it gets dark.



Call the emergency teams at 112 if you need so.



If you see any incident along the route (fallen trees, broken signs, etc.), you can send the photos and location to the email [oficinaturisme@santhilari.cat](mailto:oficinaturisme@santhilari.cat) or by Whatsapp to the phone 972 86 96 86.



In case of bringing a dog or a pet, it is advisable to bring it tied. You can find cattle grazing near the routes.

## I recordeu que a Sant Hilari Sacalm cuidem de la natura, si us plau:



Do not leave or throw rubbish in the forest



Do not break or pull up vegetation



No encenguis foc si no és en espais habilitats.

\*Del 15 de març al 15 d'octubre no es pot fer foc als terrenys forestals sense autorització.

# Sant Hilari Sacalm

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